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Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

France, Haiti: Statement by the President*

28/... Situation of human rights in Haiti

At the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, held from 2 to 27 March 2015, during consideration of agenda item 10, entitled "Technical assistance and capacity-building", the President of the Council made the following statement:

1. The Human Rights Council thanks the Independent Expert for his report on the human rights situation in Haiti and takes note of the latest legal and political developments in Haiti, which have been marked in particular by progress in civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights:[1]

(*a*) The implementation, in May 2014, of Phase II of the legal aid bureaux with a view to making justice accessible to the poorest;

(*b*) The enactment, in 2014, of the law on preventing and combating corruption and the law on maternity, paternity and filiation;

(*c*) The launch, on 23 February 2015, in Kenscoff, within the framework of the three-year agricultural revival programme, of the "spring agricultural campaign" programme aimed at increasing production and the availability of basic food commodities for the benefit of the population;

(*d*) The announcement, on 5 March 2015, of the development of a new security plan for the metropolitan region, in order to put an end to violence in the capital;

(*e*) The appointment of a new President of the Court of Cassation and the High Council of the Judiciary, and his inauguration on 9 March 2015;

(*f*) The launch, on 11 March 2015, by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and their partners, of a transitional appeal for the 2015–2016 period in order to reduce the extreme vulnerability of populations and build resilience in Haiti;

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.
[1] A/HRC/28/82.

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(*g*) The submission, on 13 March 2015, to the President of the Republic, of the preliminary draft revision of the Criminal Code, by the members of the Presidential Commission for the reform of justice established in January 2012;

(*h*) The continuation of the work of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee, set up in May 2013, to coordinate and harmonize public human rights policies.

2. The Council welcomes the renewed commitment of Haiti to the effective implementation of international human rights conventions to which Haiti is a party, with the submission, in October 2014, to the Human Rights Committee, of the initial report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the forthcoming submission by Haiti to the treaty bodies concerned of its reports on the Rights of the Child, in January 2016, on economic, social and cultural rights, in January 2016, and on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, in February 2016;

3. The Council also welcomes the reaffirmation of the commitment of the Haitian authorities to improve the living conditions of Haitian women and men by, inter alia, devoting greater attention to respect for human rights;

4. The Council welcomes the inauguration, on 23 January 2015, of a new Provisional Electoral Council, as well as the publication of the Electoral Ordinance and the electoral calendar by the Provisional Electoral Council, and the official launch of the electoral process on 13 March 2015. The Council calls on the Haitian authorities and all parties concerned to respect the electoral calendar published in the Official Gazette and to work for the satisfactory holding of elections;

5. The Council encourages, in this context, the Government of Haiti to continue strengthening the rule of law, through inter alia combating impunity, corruption, criminality and its causes. The Council strongly encourages the Government of Haiti to continue to strengthen the capacities of the national police and the judicial system, with a view to ensuring the functioning of public institutions and services and the enjoyment of all human rights;

6. The Council also welcomes the launch, on 2 March 2015, of the "crackdown" operation aimed at providing an urgent and structured response to the phenomenon of prolonged pretrial detention, as well as the establishment of a "crackdown" Committee. The Council calls on the Government of Haiti to strengthen its efforts to address the causes of prolonged pretrial detention and to reduce its use;

7. The Security Council encourages the Government of Haiti to strengthen the national institutions for the protection of human rights, in particular the Office of Citizen Protection, and to provide it with adequate resources;

8. The Council strongly encourages the Government of Haiti to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures to guarantee the rights of members of vulnerable groups, including children in domestic employment;

9. The Council also strongly encourages the Government of Haiti to strengthen women's participation in political life and to continue the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination;

10. The Council recognizes that the full enjoyment of human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights, constitutes a factor of peace, stability and development in Haiti;

11. The Council encourages the international community as a whole and, in particular, international donors, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the group of countries known as the Friends of Haiti, specialized agencies of the United Nations and, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights, to strengthen their cooperation and coordination with the Haitian authorities with a view to the full realization of all human rights in Haiti;

12. The Council welcomes and approves the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, which is concerned with technical assistance and capacity-building;

13. The Council encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with international institutions, donors and the international community in order to raise their awareness of the need to provide their expertise and sufficient resources to support the efforts made by the Haitian authorities to rebuild the country and pursue sustainable development;

14. The Council also encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with the Government of Haiti, the non-governmental organizations of Haiti and civil society in Haiti. It invites the Government of Haiti to continue its active cooperation with civil society;

15. The Council invites the Independent Expert to assist the Haitian Government in the implementation of his own recommendations and those made by the other special procedures;

16. The Council also invites the Independent Expert to submit his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti to the Council at its thirty-first session. It further invites him to undertake a mission to Haiti and to report on that mission to the Council at its thirty-first session.